

BABE RUTH ACCEPTS TERMS OF YANKEES

Formality of Signing New York Contract Is Deferred—Slug- ger Due Here Soon.

BOSTON FROWNS ON DEAL

Fans in Hub Resent Transfer of Home Run King—Frazee Gives Explanation of Sale.

Babe Ruth, the Colossus of Swat, has signed his name to a document promising to play with the Yankees next season. Manager Miller Huggins, who went to Los Angeles to sign the player, wired President Jacob Ruppert yesterday that he had talked with Ruth and that the home run slugger had signed an agreement to play here. Manager Huggins's message also said that Ruth was very much pleased with the transfer that brought him to New York and would be delighted to play here next Summer. Huggins left California last night for New York.

Just what agreement Ruth has signed is not known by the officials of the New York club. That he has not yet signed a contract is certain from Huggins's telegram. It is believed to be a tentative agreement that he will sign a contract at a certain time. Ruth expects to leave for the East next Monday, and his new contract probably will be signed in New York. He demanded a contract calling for \$20,000 a year from Boston and this figure will undoubtedly be the basis of the new contract which the Yankees will give him. According to Huggins's message, however, there is no question that Ruth is pleased with the change and is glad to join the New York club.

The purchase of Ruth for the record price of \$125,000 was the topic of conversation along Broadway yesterday and baseball fans of all ages and sizes already see a chance for the Yankees to land the 1920 pennant. Manhattan's fondest dream of having a world's series at the Polo Grounds between the Giants and Yankees now becomes a tangible thing and that is the big event which New York fans will be rooting for all next Summer.

The two Colonels—Ruppert and Huston—were praised on all sides for their aggressiveness and liberality in landing baseball's greatest attraction. If the club, strengthened by Ruth and by other players the owners have in mind, does not carry off the flag, it will not be the fault of the owners.

As Boston Views Deal.

Boston is duly shocked at the sale of Ruth and there is a wide difference of opinion about its effect on the game in the Hub. The newspapers yesterday had cartoons showing a "For Sale" sign on the Boston Public Library and on the Boston Common. They also picture Fenway Park, the home of the Red Sox, in darkness, with a sign "Building Lots for Sale."

Two Bostonians prominent in Hub baseball in the past, Fred Tenney and Hugh Duffy, are quoted as saying that the sale of Ruth is a good thing for the Red Sox and that it will be a better club without him. Tenney says: "I agree with Frazee, for he knows his own business best. A team is as strong as its weakest link. A player that fits an organization is of more value than any star not working in harmony with his club. With the passing of Tris Speaker the fans at the outset figured his loss would be fatal to the Red Sox, but the club went along winning ball games. No ball player is indispensable to a team."

Hughey Duffy says: "A star not fitting in and working in harmony with his mates is of less value to a club than two or three high-grade players even though none had the ability of the big luminary. Star ball players do not make a winning team. Players of ordinary ability working for the interest of the club are greater factors in the winning machine than the individual."

Boston's Royal Rooters are pretty badly disturbed over Ruth's sale. Johnny Keenan, leader of the Royal Rooters, had this to say: "Ruth was 90 per cent. of our club last Summer. It will be impossible to replace the strength Ruth gave the Sox. The Batterer is a wonderful player and the fact that he loves the game and plays with his all to win makes him a tremendous asset to a club. The Red Sox management will have an awful time filling the gap caused by his going. Surely the gate receipts will suffer."

Frazee Discusses Sale.

In a statement given out in Boston President Frazee tells why he sold Ruth: "Ruth had become simply impossible and the Boston Club could no longer put up with his eccentricities," said Frazee. "While Ruth, without question, is the greatest hitter that the game has ever seen, he is likewise one of the most selfish and inconsiderate men that ever wore a baseball uniform. Had he possessed the right disposition, had he been willing to take orders and work for the good of the club like the other men on the team, I would never have dared let him go. Twice during the past two seasons Babe has jumped the club and revolted. He refused to obey orders of the manager."

Ruth's case in Boston is something like that of Carl Mays. Often players remain with one club too long and all that is needed is a change. When Mays joined the Yankees he was a different ball player and never caused any trouble. It will probably be the same with Ruth for a change is probably just what he needs.

Frazee says that the Yankees were the only ball club which could have bought Ruth. "Had they been willing to trade players," says the Boston owner, "I would have preferred the exchange, but to make a trade for Ruth Huggins would have had to wreck his ball club. They could not afford to give me the men I wanted. Ruth's great value did not appeal to all the club owners. I could not get Joe Jackson for him in trade and I know of at least two other stars that Ruth could not have been traded for."

The Boston Post is deeply touched by the sale of Ruth and says editorially: "The sale of Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees will be a tremendous blow to the army of loyal fans who have stuck to the Red Sox through thick and thin, through good seasons and bad. Boston fans are bound to be disgruntled. A great star today is, generally speaking, above a mere purchase price. The Red Sox roster today contains very few men whose services are sufficiently in demand to warrant other clubs giving up tried and true players in barter. What few players of this calibre are now numbered among the Red Sox must, it would surely seem, be retained if the club, now that Ruth is gone, is to keep from crowding the Athletics for eighth place in 1920. This is not the first time that Boston baseball has been shocked by the sale of a wonderful player—Cy Young and Tris Speaker went their ways, much to the disgust of the faithful, but the club did not suffer materially. But Ruth is different. He is of a class of ball players that flashes across the firmament once in a great while and who alone bring crowds to the park, whether the team is winning or losing."

Should Reserve Judgment.

The Boston Herald asks the Boston fans to reserve judgment on the deal. It says: "Stars generally are temperamental. This goes for baseball and the stage. They often have to be handled with kid gloves. Frazee has carefully considered the Ruth angle and believes he has done the proper thing. Boston fans undoubtedly will be up in arms but they should reserve judgment until they see how it works out."

Just as soon as Ping Bodie, the centre

fielder of the Yankees, read about the Ruth purchase he hurried over from the New Jersey shipyard where he is working and wanted to know all about it. "I suppose this means," said Ping, "that I will be sent to China." Bodie hasn't signed his contract for next season and he made it known yesterday that he would like a boost in salary to meet the advance in cost of everything in general.